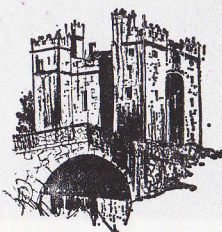


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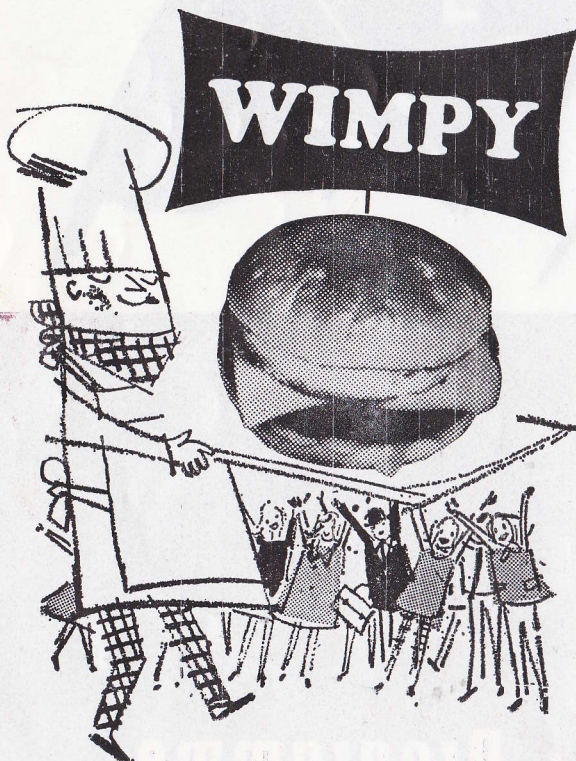


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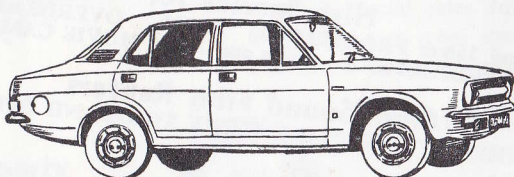
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SEASON OPENS SUNDAY, 5th MAY, 1974

Tuesday, May 7th; Friday, May 10th; 8.00 p.m.

CORK OPERA HOUSE

in association with

THE DUBLIN GRAND OPERA SOCIETY

present

“RIGOLETTO”

by GIUSEPPE VERDI (1813-1901)

Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave from Victor Hugo's “Le Roy s'amuse”

First produced at the Fenice Theatre, Venice, 11th March, 1851

CHARACTERS

Rigoletto (court jester) GABRIELE FLORESTA

Gilda (his daughter) NICULINA MIREA CURTA

The Duke of Mantua ANTONIO BEVACQUA

Sparafucile (a professional assassin) GIOVANNI GUSMEROLI

Maddalena (his sister) RUTH MAHER

Count Monterone JOHN O'FLYNN

Giovanna (Gilda's duenna) DYPNA CARNEY

Count Ceprano (a courtier) LUCIANO PECCHIA

Countess Ceprano MONICA CONDRON

Marullo (a courtier) BRENDAN KEYES

Borza (a courtier) PATRICK KING

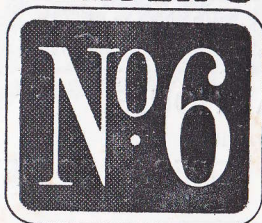
Page MAURA MOONEY

Courtiers

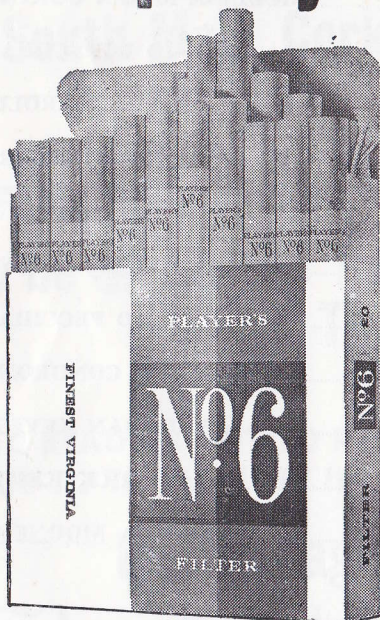
Place: Mantua Time: 16th Century

- | | |
|-------|--|
| Act 1 | An open court in the palace of the Duke of Mantua |
| Act 2 | A street in front of Rigoletto's house |
| Act 3 | A room in the Duke's palace |
| Act 4 | Outside Sparafucile's inn / the banks of the river Mincio. |

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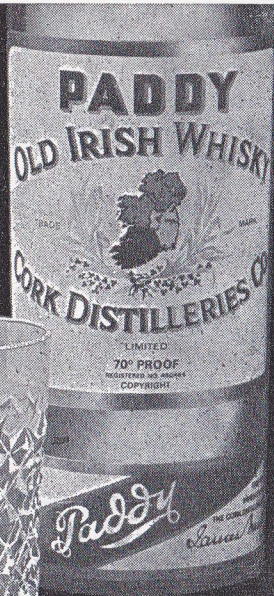
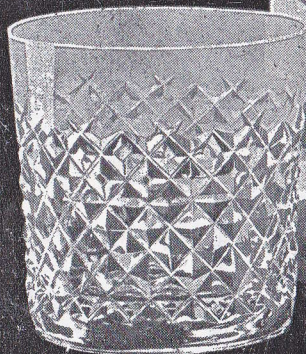
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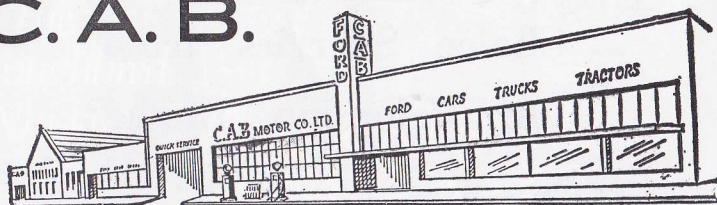
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THE STORY OF THE OPERA:

"RIGOLETTO"

(VERDI)

THE Duke of Mantua is a wild and debauched youth, who is assisted in his dissipated life by Rigoletto, his jester. In the first act, Rigoletto is found helping the Duke to win the wife of the Count Ceprano, but her father, Count Monterone, appears in the midst of a feast and curses both Rigoletto and the Duke.

Rigoletto has one vulnerable point in his armour and that is his tender love for his beautiful and pure daughter Gilda. Unknown to Rigoletto, the Duke has been serenading Gilda, and has won her confidence. One night as Rigoletto goes home he finds some of the Duke's men abducting a young woman. Thinking that it is the Countess Ceprano, he gleefully assists them only to find that it is his own daughter.

Gilda is taken to the Duke's palace, where Rigoletto follows her, but she implores him not to take vengeance on the Duke, whom she loves. Rigoletto is not to be put off, and hires one Sparafucile to kill the Duke.

In the last act, Maddalena, Sparafucile's sister is succumbing to the advances of the Duke, and she begs her brother not to kill him. He consents and they decide to kill the next passer-by, and pretend that it is the Duke. Rigoletto has persuaded Gilda to fly from the palace disguised as a man, but she, believing she is saving her lover, contrives to be the next passer-by, and is killed. Her body is then placed in a sack and handed to the jester as being that of the Duke. As Rigoletto proceeds to the river to dispose of the body he hears the Duke singing, and realises that a mistake has been made. He hastily tears open the sack to find his dying daughter inside, and with a last frenzied cry remembers that Monterone's awful curse has been fulfilled.